

## Message Text

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44

ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 RSC-01 FEAE-00 HEW-06 DODE-00

PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 CEQ-01 EPA-04 AEC-07 /091 W

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R 221552Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4522

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS PARIS 27964

DEPT PASS OES/SCI JUSTIN BLOOM

SUBJECT: REPORTED CHEMICAL EXPLOSION AT SACLAY NUCLEAR  
STUDIES CENTER

1. SIX PERSONS WERE BURNED, ONE SERIOUSLY, IN A CHEMICAL EXPLOSION WHICH OCCURED IN A REINFORCED ENCLOSURE NEAR THE SACLAY RESEARCH REACTOR OSIRIS ON THE AFTERNOON OF 21 NOVEMBER' ACCORDING TO LE FIGARO OF 22 NOVEMBER.

2. THE RESEARCH REACTOR, WHICH HAS BEEN IN SERVICE SINCE SEPTEMBER 1966, HAD BEEN TURNED OFF FOR A ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WHEN THE EXPLOSION OF A MIXTURE OF CHEMICALS USED FOR CLEANING -- ACETONE, ALCOHOL AND NITRIC ACID -- OCCURED. LE FIGARO NOTED THAT THE FRENCH ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION STATED THAT IN NO WAY COULD THIS BE CONSIDERED AN INCIDENCE INVOLVING RADIO-ACTIVE MATERIAL LEAKAGE.

3. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS ALSO REPORTED THE EXPLOSION AND ADDED THAT THE REACTOR ITSELF, WHICH WAS IN A SEPARATE BUILDING, WAS NOT DAMAGED IN ANY WAY. THE FRENCH WIRE SERVICE AFP SAID THAT IT IS NOT UNDERSTOOD WHAT ERROR LED TO THE EXPLOSION, SINCE THE CLEANING

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AND MAINTENANCE IS A ROUTINE ACTIVITY.

RUSH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NUCLEAR ENERGY, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, NUCLEAR OPERATIONS, ACCIDENTS, NUCLEAR SAFETY  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 NOV 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974PARIS27964  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740339-0549  
**From:** PARIS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19741120/aaaaaqmj.tel  
**Line Count:** 62  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION OES  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** boyleja  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 NOV 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <14 NOV 2002 by maustmc>; APPROVED <14-Nov-2002 by boyleja>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REPORTED CHEMICAL EXPLOSION AT SACLAY NUCLEAR STUDIES CENTER  
**TAGS:** ENRG, (SACLAY NUCLEAR STUDIES CENTER)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005